Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 032005-121

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of	)	
	)	
SING et al.	)	Group Art Unit:
	)	
Application No.:	)	Examiner:
	)	
Filed: September 26, 2001	)	
	)	
For: ABSORBABLE SPONGE WITH CONTRASTING AGENT	)	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please enter the following preliminary amendment prior to examination of the above-referenced application. Formal drawings are also being filed herewith. The subject application is a Continuation Application under 37 C.F.R. §153(b) of Application Serial No. 09/630,814.

In the Specification, please replace the last paragraph on page 7 with the following:

--While the absorbable sponge material can be employed with any suitable medical instrument, a preferred device and method for facilitating hemostasis of a biopsy tract is described herein to illustrate use of the absorbable sponge material. The technique is further described in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/247,880, filed on February 10, 1999 and entitled "Device and Method for Facilitating Hemostasis of a Biopsy Tract," now U.S. Patent No. 6,086,607, which is incorporated herein by reference.--

Please delete claims 1-6 and add new claims 14-27 as follows:

--14. The method of claim 7 wherein the contrasting agent is substantially dispersed throughout the absorbable sponge material.

15. The method of claim 7 further comprising a step of locating the position of the vascular tissue site by detecting the contrasting agent.

16. The method for performing a biopsy comprising the steps of:
removing tissue from a vascular site; and
positioning a pledget of absorbable sponge material substantially at the vascular site wherein the absorbable sponge material includes a contrast agent preloaded therein prior to delivery.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the contrasting agent is water insoluble.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the contrasting agent is selected from the group consisting of tantalum, tantalum oxide, barium sulfate, gold, tungsten, and platinum and mixtures thereof.

19. The method of claim 16 wherein the contrasting agent is water soluble.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the contrasting agent is selected from the group consisting of metrizamide, iopamidol, iothalamate sodium, iodomide sodium, and meglumine and mixtures thereof.

21. The method of claim 16 wherein the contrasting agent is substantially dispersed throughout the absorbable sponge material.

22. The method of marking a biopsy site comprising the steps of:
providing an absorbable sponge material containing a contrast agent;
placing the sponge material containing the contrast agent into a delivery device;
performing a biopsy procedure at a biopsy site; and

delivering the sponge material containing contrast agent to the biopsy site to mark the biopsy site.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein the contrasting agent is water insoluble.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein the contrasting agent is selected from the group consisting of tantalum, tantalum oxide, barium sulfate, gold, tungsten, and platinum and mixtures thereof.

25. The method of claim 22 wherein the contrasting agent is water soluble.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein the contrasting agent is selected from the group consisting of metrizamide, iopamidol, iothalamate sodium, iodomide sodium, and meglumine and mixtures thereof.

27. The method of claim 22 wherein the contrasting agent is substantially dispersed throughout the absorbable sponge material.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September 27, 2001

Marked up copy of the amended Specification

Please amend the last paragraph on page 7 as follows:

While the absorbable sponge material can be employed with any suitable medical instrument, a preferred device and method for facilitating hemostasis of a biopsy tract is described herein to illustrate use of the absorbable sponge material. The technique is further described in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. [..... and bears Attorney Docket No. 032005-030] 09/247,880, filed on [May 28,] February 10, 1999 and entitled "Device and Method for Facilitating Hemostasis of a Biopsy Tract," [which application] now U.S. Patent No. 6,086,607, which is incorporated herein by reference.--